

# ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR CITIZENS AND HOUSEHOLDS

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

- **Citizenship Eligibility:** Chickasaws who are direct descendants of enrollees listed as “Chickasaw by blood” on the Final Approved Rolls of the Dawes Commission.
- A CDIB card must be issued before a Chickasaw citizenship card may be obtained. The CDIB card is issued by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The CDIB does not establish citizenship with the Chickasaw Nation. Once Chickasaw applicants receive the CDIB, they are eligible to apply for citizenship in the Chickasaw Nation. A Chickasaw citizenship card is issued by the Chickasaw Nation and opens the door to tribal programs and services.
- Completed applications containing all required and/or requested documents are processed in the order received by tribal government services. Due to the varying number of applications received on a daily basis and the uniqueness of each, there is not a standard processing timeframe. Applicants may call tribal government services for a status check at any time.
- The Genealogy Archive Center at the Holisso: The Center for Study of Chickasaw History and Culture on the campus of the Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur, Oklahoma, can provide a wealth of information and assistance when seeking First American ancestors. Information such as family names, birth and death years, parents’ names, marriages dates and tribal affiliation are needed to aid genealogy staff with the research.  
**Main Line: (580) 622-7156**
- Additional genealogy information may be available at the tribal library in Ada, Oklahoma.  
**Main Line: (580) 310-6477**



## REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR CDIB PROCESSING

Original state certified birth certificates, original state certified delayed birth certificates and original state certified death certificates may be obtained from the state vital statistics or vital records office (name varies by state) for the state in which the person was born or deceased.

- Attach an original, state certified birth certificate as issued by the state vital statistics or vital records office.
  - A. Must be an original. Copies cannot be accepted.
  - B. Must be state issued long form/book copy (birth certificates). County, city, short-form or hospital birth certificates are not acceptable.
  - C. Must contain the state file number.
  - D. Must have the state registrar's signature.
  - E. A delayed state certified birth certificate will need a secondary supporting document, such as:
    1. An SS5 (for deceased individuals and obtained from the Social Security Administration) – must list parents name(s),
    2. Proof of heirship (must state lineal relationship),
    3. Wills (must state lineal relationship),
    4. Probates (must state lineal relationship), or
    5. Numident which must list parent's name(s) (for living individuals and obtained from the Social Security Administration).
  
- Last name change requires legal name change document (marriage license or divorce decree).
  
- Full name or last name change due to any other reason requires the following:
  - A. Original state certified birth certificate (prior to name change),
  - B. Court order, and
  - C. Amended state certified birth certificate showing new last name.
  
- If a person is adopted, they may apply for a CDIB and Chickasaw citizenship if one or both of natural (biological) parent(s) is Chickasaw "by blood." Adoptions will require additional steps and additional documentation will be required.
  
- Other supporting documentation may also be requested at the discretion of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) or tribal government services.

---

*Continued on next page*

- If anyone in your direct lineage has been issued a CDIB card previously, the required state certified birth and death certificates may already be on file; however, if upon review we find these documents missing, you will receive a pending letter requesting those documents be submitted before your application can be processed.
- If no one in direct lineage has ever been issued a CDIB, the original state certified (long form) birth certificates and original state certified death certificates, as issued by the state vital statistics or vital records office must be provided for each person in your lineage from you back to and including the original enrollee.

## FAQ'S

**Q:** *Can I be enrolled in more than one tribe?*

**A:** A person seeking Chickasaw citizenship may not be dually enrolled with another tribe. You must relinquish citizenship/membership from the tribe you are enrolled with and provide the appropriate form when applying for Chickasaw citizenship.

**Q:** *How do I apply if I am adopted?*

**A:** A person who has been adopted may be eligible for a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) card and Chickasaw citizenship if they can prove the biological parent(s) is of Chickasaw lineage “by blood.”

**Q:** *How long will it take for me to receive my CDIB and/or citizenship cards?*

**A:** To ensure that every application is treated in a fair manner, applications are processed in the order they have been received with all required documentation. Processing times vary as the number of applications received on a daily basis varies and every application is unique. Applications where the applicant’s lineage has not been established (applicant is the first person in direct lineage to apply for a CDIB) are considered research applications as each person in the lineage has to be reviewed and verified resulting in a longer processing time.

**Q:** *Where can I find an application for a CDIB or citizenship?*

**A:** You may contact tribal government services at **(580) 436-7250** and request an application be mailed to you or visit **Chickasaw.net/Citizenship** to find the applications.

**Q:** *Where do I mail my CDIB application?*

**A:** All CDIB applications and supporting documents need to be mailed to tribal government services at **2015 Lonnie Abbott Boulevard, Ada, OK, 74820**.

